

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A method of monitoring a selected condition of an animal using a selected monitoring material, the animal having a visually observable nail tissue, the method comprising

~~selecting a monitoring material for introduction into the animal, wherein the monitoring material is a material selected from the group comprising a naturally weak organism, an attenuated virus, a fungus and a bacteria, wherein the material is tagged with a color~~

selecting a method of introducing the monitoring material into the animal

selecting at least one site under the nail tissue ~~on the animal~~ for introducing the monitoring material

introducing the monitoring material into the animal at the selected sites, wherein as a result of the introduction of the monitoring material, a visually ascertainable indication of a status of the condition of the animal appears the selected sites, ~~in at least one pre-defined site on the animal, wherein introducing the monitoring material is effected by a process selected from the group consisting of comprising injecting under the skin, implantation and transplantation~~

monitoring the visually ascertainable indication ~~wherein the monitoring is not diagnosing~~

observing the visually ascertainable indication to thereby visually ascertain the status of the condition

wherein the visually ascertainable indication is a reversible change in color of the monitoring material.

Claim 2 (Previously presented): The method of monitoring a condition of an animal of claim 1 further comprising localizing the monitoring material.

Claim 3 (Canceled).

Claim 4 (Canceled).

Claim 5 (Canceled).

Claim 6 (Canceled).

Claim 7 (Canceled).

Claim 8 (Previously presented): The method of monitoring a condition of an animal of claim 1 wherein the site is visually ascertainable.

Claim 9 (Original): The method of monitoring a condition of an animal of claim 1 wherein the monitoring material is selected from the group consisting of: organic materials and inorganic materials.

Claim 10 (Canceled).

Claim 11 (Canceled).

Claim 12 (Canceled).

Claim 13 (Original): The method of monitoring a condition of an animal of claim 1 wherein the step of selecting at least one site comprises selecting sites which are relatively free of blemish.

Claim 14 (Original): The method of monitoring a condition of an animal of claim 1 further comprising preparing the sites for introducing the monitoring material.

Claim 15 (Original): The method of monitoring a condition of an animal of claim 1 wherein the steps of (a) selecting a monitoring material, (b) selecting a method of introducing and (c) selecting at least one site are performed in the order (b), (c), (a).

Claim 16 (Canceled).

Claim 17 (Canceled).

Claim 18 (Canceled).

Claim 19 (Canceled).

Claim 20 (Canceled).

Claim 21 (Canceled).

Claim 22 (Canceled).

Claim 23 (Canceled).

Claim 24 (Currently amended): A method of monitoring a selected condition of an animal using a selected monitoring materials, the animal having a visually observable nail tissue, the method comprising

selecting at least one site under the nail tissue ~~on the animal~~

introducing the a monitoring material into the animal at the selected sites, ~~wherein the monitoring material is a material selected from the group comprising a naturally weak organism, an attenuated virus, a fungus and a bacteria, wherein the material is tagged with a color, wherein as a result of the introduction of the monitoring material, a visually ascertainable color indication of a status of the condition appears at the selected sites~~ ~~introducing the monitoring material is effected by a process selected from the group comprising injecting under the skin, implantation and transplantation~~

monitoring the color at the selected sites, ~~wherein monitoring is not diagnosing~~

observing the selected sites to thereby visually ascertain the status of the condition, ~~wherein as a result of the introduction of the monitoring material, a visually ascertainable indication of a status of the condition appears on the animal's skin~~

wherein if the status of the condition is normal, then the selected site has a first appearance

wherein if the status of the condition is changed a small amount from normal, then the selected site has a second appearance which appears to be a small change from the first appearance

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wherein if the status of the condition changes considerably from normal, then the selected site has a third appearance which appears very noticeably different from the first appearance.

Claim 25 (Canceled).

Claim 26 (Canceled).